

A NEW SPECIES OF ACMAEODERA (COLEOPTERA: BURPRESTIDAE)¹

Josef N. Knull²

Acmaeodera lucerneae NEW SPECIES

Female: Small, resembling *A. santarosae* Knull (1960); head, prothorax, a transverse stripe across base of elytra and ventral surface dark brown, nearly black; legs dark brown, an irregular reddish yellow stripe on each elytron, bounded by dark brown along suture and at sides.

Head convex; punctures very coarse under high power, and separated by fine lines giving appearance of a reticulate area, a recumbent white hair arising from each puncture; antennae short, not reaching middle of pronotum, serrate from the fifth segment, outer segments transverse.

Pronotum wider than long, widest behind middle, base wider than apex; sides broadly rounded from apex to base; anterior margin sinuate, forming a broadly rounded lobe at middle; base truncate; disk convex, a lateral depression each side at base extending from a deeper depression, also a broader but shallower depression at base; surface punctures larger than on head, a transverse corrugated line at base, a recumbent white hair arising from each puncture.

Elytra at base narrower than widest part of pronotum, convex; side margin constricted back of prominent umbone, widened behind middle, then broadly rounded to rounded apices, finely serrate from back of middle; surface striate with closely placed punctures, separated by less than their own diameters and smaller than punctures of pronotum, interspaces narrower than punctures, recumbent white hairs arising from minute punctures on interspaces.

Beneath, prosternal margin truncate, slightly retracted at side margin; surface coarsely punctured, punctures smaller in middle of abdomen, a recumbent white hair arising from each puncture, last sternite rounded, unmodified.

Tarsal claws simple, not toothed at base.

Length 4.6 mm.; width 1.6 mm.

Described from four specimens from Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino Co., California, collected by D. J. and J. N. Knull, June 5, 1948. Female type and paratypes in collection of author.

This species belongs in the *truncatae* group with the *gemina* Horn (1872) complex. It is close to *Acmaeodera santarosae* and can be separated from it by the reddish yellow color and dark transverse band at base of elytra. It lacks the yellow spot at side of thorax as in *gemina*.

It resembles *Acmaeoderoides humeralis* (Cazier) (1938) in color and pattern and collected with it. The presence of a visible scutellum on *humeralis* will separate the two.

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²Department of Entomology, The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio 43210

LITERATURE CITED

- Cazier, Mont A. 1938. New Acmaeodera and Chrysobothris from the Southwest. Bull. Southern Calif. Acad. Sci. 37:12-17.
- Horn, George H. 1872. Revision of the species of Acmaeodera of the United States. Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc. 7:1-27.
- Knull, Josef N. 1960. A New California Acmaeodera. Ohio Jour. Sci. 60(6):322.
- Abstract.—A new species of *Acmaeodera* from southern California is described.
- Descriptors: Coleoptera:Buprestidae *Acmaeodera lucerneae* n. sp.

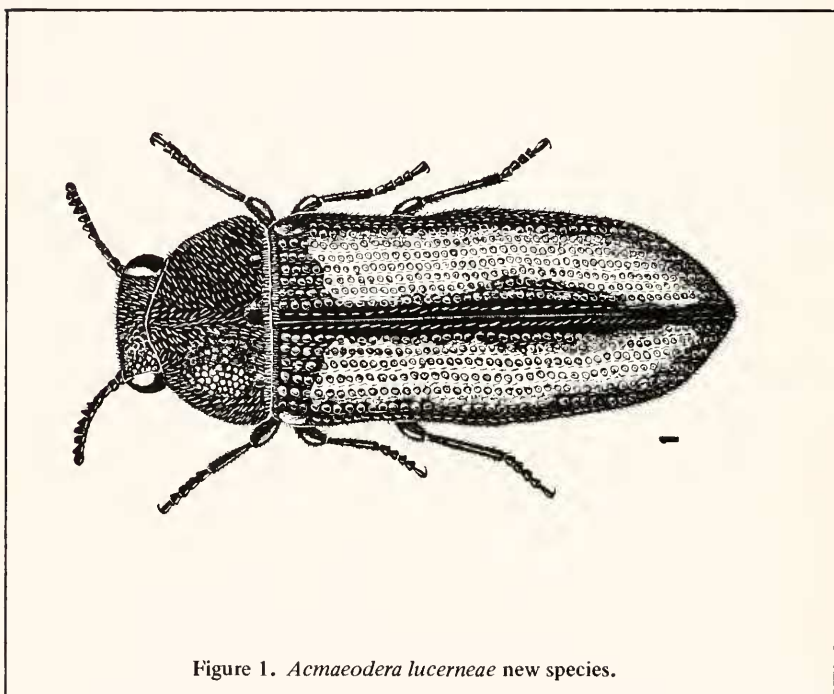


Figure 1. *Acmaeodera lucerneae* new species.

Letters to the Editor

Executive Secretary
American Entomological Society (AES)
1900 Race St.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103
U.S.A.

A very good friend of our family is extremely interested in entomology as a hobby and is a member of one of the largest entomological associations here in the Frankfurt area. Since his knowledge of the English language is not sufficient to be able to take up correspondence with you we offered to do this for him in an effort to seek your help.